

# U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY CIVIL AIR PATROL

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## FULLERTON COMPOSITE SQUADRON 56

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **CIVIL AIR PATROL CADETS EARN TOP HONORS AT COLOR GUARD COMPETITION**

FULLERTON, CA – Five cadets from the Civil Air Patrol Fullerton Composite Squadron finished first place in a color guard competition held at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, in Oceanside, on Jan. 24.

They will compete at the annual statewide Civil Air Patrol color guard competition on Feb. 14 and 15 in San Luis Obispo. The color guard from the Fullerton Composite Squadron will represent the 11 CAP squadrons in Orange and San Diego counties. They will be competing against seven other color guard teams for the honor of becoming the Civil Air Patrol California Wing Color Guard for 2004.

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Natasha Marakowski led the winning team. As color guard commander Marakowski, a local 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, is the Senior Flag Bearer who carries the American flag during flag ceremonies. “It was a very close competition” Marikowski said. “We have been used to thinking of ourselves as just the Squadron 56 color guard” said Marakowski. “It is an honor and exciting to think of ourselves now as the Group 7 color guard.”

Color guard teams from three CAP cadet squadrons competed in events designed to test their knowledge of military drill and ceremonies, the CAP Cadet Program, uniform appearance, and physical fitness. The events included written examinations on leadership theory and Civil Air Patrol chain of command. Demonstrations of proper flag etiquette and ceremony, both indoors and outdoors, military formation, and marching maneuvers also tested their knowledge. They were also judged on their physical fitness and uniform appearance.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Jeff Rogers, a local 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, is the Junior Flag Bearer and carries the CAP squadron flag. Cadet Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Justine Gamboa and Micah Gamboa are the Left and Right Guards. Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Ann Chung is the color guard alternate. Maj. Brian Goldie of the United States Air Force Reserve judged the color guard competition. Maj. Randy McClure and Capt. Daryl Newton of the Civil Air Patrol assisted Goldie.

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“They gave a very impressive performance and I am very proud of them” said Capt. Dan Gwaltney, the squadrons Deputy Commander for Cadets. “They’ve shown an enormous amount of dedication towards something that is outside the normal requirements of the cadet program. I am proud that they have chosen to serve not only the squadron but now the Group in the capacity of Color Guard” Gwaltney said.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is a non-profit organization of approximately 64,000 members nationwide with approximately 4,000 members in California. It performs more than 95% of inland search and rescue missions in the continental United States as tasked by the Air Force rescue Coordination Center. Civil Air Patrol volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and counter-drug missions as the request of federal, state, and local agencies. Civil Air Patrol volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to almost 27,000 of America’s youth through the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program. For more information about the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol or about the Fullerton Composite Squadron, go to [www.cawg.cap.gov](http://www.cawg.cap.gov), or email [squadron56@cawg.cap.gov](mailto:squadron56@cawg.cap.gov).